

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FOR APRIL 2005

The Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members, residing in the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point, to local government. OPSRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 325.

Lifetime memberships are \$5.00 and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.com) for further information.

The purpose of our society is to:

- Ensure that the development of the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
- Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
- Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
- Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
- Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to over 60 of our members. Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

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IN THIS ISSUE

1. Upcoming Meetings and Events
2. Letter to Minister of CAWS Requesting a New JDF Governance Study
3. Letter to Minister of CAWS Concerning The Otter Point/Sooke Border Lands
4. Monthly OPSRRA Directors' Meetings
5. Otter Point & Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plans
6. New Advisory Planning Commission (APC) Appointments
7. Shirley Community Association Directors
8. Fire Burning Season
9. Community Notice Boards
10. Renaming West Coast Road?
11. Offer of Free Advertising for Businesses in Shirley & Otter Point
12. Back Issues of the OPSRRA Newsletter

1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact OPSRRA

to have your community event listed in our monthly community events calendar

Tuesday April 5	Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road Shirley OCP is on the agenda
Sunday April 10	Shirley Volunteer Fire Department Meeting 2:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Tuesday April 12	JDF Regional Director Shirley Town Hall Meeting 7:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Monday April 18	Zoning Meeting: Shirley/Jordan River Official Zoning Bylaw Committee 6:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall
Tuesday April 19	Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. District of Sooke Council Chambers Council Chambers 2225 Otter Point Road Otter Point OCP may be on the agenda

**Note: This meeting is tentative.
Contact the CRD Planning Services Office to confirm**

Monday April 25	Zoning Meeting: Otter Point Official Zoning Bylaw Committee 6:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall 3727 Otter Point Road
Tuesday April 26	OPSRRA Directors Meeting Members welcome 7:30 p.m. Otter Point Fire Hall 3727 Otter Point Road
Second and Fourth Thursday of every month	Shirley Quilters and Crafters 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shirley Community Hall

2. OPSRRA LETTER TO MINISTER OF CAWS REQUESTING A GOVERNANCE STUDY

The following letter has been sent to the Minister of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services. The Shirley Education & Action Society (SEAS) has also sent a letter asking for the province to fund a governance study. Both OPSRRA and SEAS have also asked the JDF regional director to support a request for a governance study.

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
<http://www.opsrra.com/>

8448 West Coast Rd.
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

21 March 2005

Mr. Murray Coell
Minister of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Coell:

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Point & Shirley Residents & Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) to inform you of the following motion that was recently approved by our membership.

Motion: In view of Shirley's 82% and Otter Point's 80% "No" vote to amalgamation (with the District of Sooke), I move that OPSRRA write letters to our regional director and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services asking that the rural areas of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area be funded to carry-out a study of our governance options. Carried.

While the recent Boundary Restructure referendum may have satisfied the need to determine whether the residents of Otter Point and Shirley wanted to amalgamate with the District of Sooke, the Boundary Restructure study did not satisfy the need to fully examine our governance options. Residents of our two communities were only given one choice throughout the recent boundary restructure process: join

with Sooke or not. Because voters rejected the amalgamation option does not necessarily mean that they agree with or want to continue with the status quo.

Contrary to what seems to have already been decided by your ministry, our association feels that now is the time to carry-out a study of governance options in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

- The information collected by the Juan de Fuca/District of Sooke Boundary Restructure committee is still current and parts of it are re-useable.
- The Ben Marr study considered options that were not included in the terms-of-reference of the Boundary Restructure committee.
- Residents of the area are now well informed on the issues of governance.
- There will be a regional director election in 7 months, which means that voters could go to the poll knowing the candidates' position on governance.
- The study, and any planned changes in governance, could happen within that director's term.
- New Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws will be in place for all the rural communities in the Electoral Area by this summer.
- Government support for the removal of land from the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is already having an influence on our future governance options. We are getting change by default!

I look forward to your reply on this important issue.

Yours truly,
Ken Pungente – President OPSRRA

3. OPSRRA LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF CAWS CONCERNING THE OTTER POINT/SOOKE BORDER LANDS

OPSRRA has sent the following letter to the Minister of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services. The JDF regional director has been informed of this matter by separate correspondence. The Shirley Education & Action Society (SEAS) has also sent a letter to the minister and the JDF regional director asking that no action be taken to consider extending the District of Sooke's boundary until a JDF Electoral Area governance study has been completed.

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.opsrra.com/>

8448 West Coast Rd.
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

26 March 2005

Mr. Murray Coell
Minister of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Coell:

At its February 23, 2005 Annual General Meeting the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA) approved the following motion

"In view of Shirley's 82 per cent and Otter Point's 80 per cent "No" vote to amalgamation, I move that OPSRRA write letters to and lobby our regional director and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services asking that the province not consider boundary extension requests from the District of Sooke at this time."

As you may be aware, in the wake of the failed February 5th amalgamation referendum, the District of Sooke is now entertaining expressions of interest for boundary extensions from owners of properties bordering their municipal boundaries.

The Province has a legislative responsibility to maintain the system of local government boundaries, and any changes to these boundaries. For this reason, boundary extension requests must be forwarded to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (MCAWS) for consideration.

OPSRRA anticipates that the District of Sooke will soon be forwarding a request to extend its western boundary to include lands currently within the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area - more specifically the area known as Otter Point.

OPSRRA respectfully requests that MCAWS not advance to Cabinet, at this time, any boundary expansion requests by the District of Sooke involving lands within Otter Point, for the following reasons:

1. OPSRRA membership, through a formal motion, have directed its directors to write the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area regional director Erik Lund and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services asking that the rural areas of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area be funded to carry out a study of our governance options.

While Otter Point and Shirley residents have resoundingly rejected amalgamation with Sooke, they have expressed interest in exploring options that may lead to better governance. It should be noted that some of these options were identified in the Ben Marr report which was the catalyst for the recent Sooke Boundary Restructure study. Now that the outcome of the study is known, other options identified in Marr's report should be explored. However, the feasibility of these

options could be jeopardized should the boundaries be changed beforehand. Factors such as the erosion of the existing tax base, the impact on planning for local fire protection, the cost of maintaining the local fire department and forced changes to local land use planning need to be considered before approving boundary extensions.

In addition, much of the technical information compiled by the consultant for the failed District of Sooke Boundary Restructure study could be utilized to study the remaining options. This existing information, and the feasibility of associated options, will be jeopardized if boundaries are allowed to be changed prior to the completion of a Juan de Fuca Electoral Area governance study.

2. Under the terms of the CRD Regional Growth Strategy, the District of Sooke has set its Urban Containment Boundary at its municipal boundaries. Sooke should not be allowed to extend its municipal boundary into an identified rural area which has a newly completed Official Community Plan and soon to be completed Zoning Bylaw that support the RGS' intention to keep our community outside of the UCB and thus rural.
3. One of the expressions of interest in boundary extension involves Section 42 and 43 of the Otter Land District. Most of this land falls within the Kemp Lake watershed—a source of potable drinking water for approximately 400 Otter Point residents. This land, along with Sections 40 & 41, was intentionally not included within the District of Sooke's municipal boundary at the time of incorporation because it was recognized, when the boundaries were considered, that it was a natural feature—a watershed, and that one jurisdiction (the District of Sooke) should not have local control over a resource that solely benefits residents of another jurisdiction. The property owner unsuccessfully lobbied for inclusion of this land into the District of Sooke in 2001. OPSRRA had opposed this application at the time. A copy of OPSRRA's correspondence to the Minister of the day is attached.

For these reasons, OPSRRA is requesting that MCAWS not consider boundary extension requests by the District of Sooke involving lands within Otter Point at this time.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your response.
Ken Pungente – President OPSRRA

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF MONTHLY OPSRRA DIRECTORS MEETING

1. Appointment of areas of responsibility:
 - Membership: Ken Pungente & Jim Dexter
 - Publicity: Dave Evans
 - Newsletter & Web Site:
Arnie Campbell & Sandy Barta
 - LUC Meetings: Ken Pungente & Wayne Fritz
 - OCP/Zoning Bylaw Meetings:
Wayne Fritz & Sandy Barta (Otter Point)
Jim Dexter (Shirley)

APC Meetings: Jim Dexter (Shirley)
Wayne Fritz (Otter Point)

OPSRRA Historian: Ken Pungente

2. AGM Motions: Letters to be written to the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services and the JDF regional director as per the AGM motions about a Governance study and the Otter Point/Sooke Border Lands. (See items 2 and 3 above for details).
3. Kemp Lake Boundary: A member requested that OPSRRA write to the Surveyor General requesting clarification of the lake's boundary.
4. Pacific Marine Highway: A request from the JDF regional director concerning the provincial proposal to rename West Coast Rd. (See item 8).
5. King Creek Catchments Area: A request from the Juan de Fuca Trails Society for OPSRRA to write a letter to the provincial government supporting the use of crown lands for a trail system in the King Creek catchments area.
6. Community Notice Boards: (See item 7 for details).
7. Old Otter Point School: Decision to write the provincial government requesting that the crown land where the "Old Otter Point" school is located be donated to the community as a park and that a historic marker be erected.

5. OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY/JORDAN RIVER OCP & ZONING BYLAW

Both the Otter Point and the Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plans have been referred to the JDF Land Use Committee. The LUC will consider the Shirley/Jordan River OCP on April 5 and the Otter Point OCP is tentatively scheduled for the committee's April 19 meeting. The committee can: send a draft OCP back to the committee for further work; request another Public Hearing; table the draft pending further information; or approve the OCP and refer it to the CRD Board.

6. NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSIONS

The JDF Electoral Area regional director has recommended the following appointments be made by the CRD Board to the soon to be created Shirley/Jordan River APCs:

James Powell	Joen Nelson
Sonjia DeWit	Volker Metz
Jane Munroe	

These appointments will take effect once the Shirley/Jordan River OCP is passed as a bylaw.

The creation of a separate Shirley/Jordan River APC means that the original Otter Point/Shirley APC (which now becomes the Otter Point APC) now has two vacancies. Heather Phillips and Sid Jorna have been appointed to the Otter Point APC, with the recommendation of the JDF regional director.

All members of APCs are intended to be elected, however the regional director has the authority to recommend appointments to the CRD Board of Directors. It is expected that all of the APC positions will be filled by election this coming November.

7. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

The Shirley Community Association elected the following directors at its AGM:

President:	Chuck Minten
Vice-President:	Mike Wood
Secretary:	Colleen Minten
Treasurer:	Karen Van Veen
Directors:	Margaret Wood, James Powell, Nicole Gardener

8. FIRE BURNING SEASON

Otter Point Burning Regulations

The following is summary of the 1958 – Fire Regulation Bylaw No. 1, 1991 http://www.crd.bc.ca/bylaws/fireprotection_/index.htm

No open burning shall take place during the months of July, August and September.

No open burning between sunset of one day and sunrise of the next day.

Fire season is April 15 to June 30 and October 1 to October 15.

The season may be extended at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

All open burning requires a permit from the fire department: call 642-6211.

As this is a volunteer department, please leave a message and the person issuing permits will call you back.

Prohibited Materials

The following shall NOT be burnt:

Tires	plastic
drywall	paint and paint products
treated lumber	asphalt, asphalt products
rubber	fuel and lubricant containers
tar paper	railway ties
manure.	

No person shall ignite or maintain a fire on the foreshore:

- within 46 meters of any building;
- within 3 meters of any driftwood, dry vegetation, grass or any other combustible materials;
- or without obtaining a Class "B" burning permit.

Class B limits on hand pile burning shall be maximum diameter 2 meters or 6 feet.

No green debris or leaves shall be burnt except by specific exemptions which may be at the discretion of the Fire Chief

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Otter Point Fire Department:

Phone: (250) 642-6211

Fax: (250) 642-2673

e-mail Fire Chief: chief@otterpointfire.bc.ca

SHIRLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Burning permits:

Class "A" (machine piled burns) require a permit at all times.
No Class A fires permitted 15 April to 15 October.

Class "B" (hand-built burn piles) require a permit from 15 April to 15 October.
No Class "B" permits will be issued from 15 May to 15 October due to dry soil conditions.

Class "C" fires (incinerators with 1/4" mesh screen) require no permit.
Class "C" fires, at present, have no restriction on burning.



Remember to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly (both battery and hard-wired).

Emergency phone number: 9-1-1

Non-emergency phone number: 250-646-2107

Fax: 250-646-2205

Mailing address: 401B Sheringham Point Road, Shirley
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

e-mail address: info@shirleyfire.cjb.net

Fire Chief: Carl Nelson
e-mail: FireChief@sookeadventures.com

Deputy Fire Chief: Robert VanVeen

Web site: <http://shirleyfire.cjb.net>

9. COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

Tired of seeing community notices taped to your mail box or tacked-up where ever? Having trouble finding a suitable place to put-up your important notice? Do wind and rain "do in" your notice before its time? Well OPSRRA has certainly experienced all of the above and would like to do something about finding a proper place for everyone's community notices.

OPSRRA is proposing an “adopt-a-post” project. The goal is to place a community notice board in the vicinity of each rural mail box in Shirley and Otter Point—there are about two dozen of them so it will require a considerable amount of material to build even small (18” x 24”) notice boards on a 6 foot post. We are looking for donor/sponsors to:

- Donate material
- Sponsor a post by donating money
- Help put the bulletin boards together
- Help put the bulletin boards in place
- Help to keep the bulletin boards in good repair

Contact any of the OPSRRA directors if you are able to help.

10. RENAMING THE WEST COAST ROAD?

The regional director has asked OPSRRA’s opinion of a District of Sooke/provincial government proposal to change the name of the West Coast Road to Pacific Coast Marine Highway. This idea came about with the Province’s recent announcement that it intends to extend Highway 14 from Port Renfrew to Lake Cowichan. The following e-mail was sent to the regional director and is followed with the regional director’s reply.

Dear Eric:

I am writing on behalf of the Otter Point and Shirley Residents & Ratepayers to pass along comments by the directors and some of the public at our last night’s directors’ meeting. The subject was the proposed changing of the name of the West Coast Rd. to Pacific Marine Highway. No one at this meeting was in favour of changing the name. Some felt that the name was well known far beyond our community, (e.g. other parts of Canada and Europe). There was concern about the inconvenience to residents of having to notify friends, businesses and financial institutions of their change of address. One comment made was that perhaps a better idea would be to just put up signs calling it the Pacific Marine Circle Route or Pacific Marine Drive in the same way that Dallas Rd., King George Terrace and Beach Drive are all known as Marine Drive.

Thank you,
Ken Pungente

16/03/05

Dear Ken:

Thank you for sending the e-mail. There appears to be no interest from anyone to date in changing the name. Therefore this initiative will not be supported by your local government.

Erik Lund

11. FREE ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

Do you operate a small business? Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA is offering a free business listing service for members, on its web site: www.opsrra.com. We will list non-members for a suitable donation!

The purpose of this service is to provide an opportunity for businesses in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point to advertise their goods and services to their local community. We anticipate having listings for accommodation, farm produce, art, furniture, fishing charters, eco tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing and more. More information, businesses already listed and a registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site (www.opsrra.com) under Business Listings.

12. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site. Go to the Index page and click-on Back Issues.

This newsletter is published monthly on the www.opsrra.com web page by OPSRRA—the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association. Comments or requests to have information included in the newsletter can be directed to: Arnie Campbell, Vice President. Phone: (250) 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca
